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Message Text

ACTION DLOS-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BRASILIA 0448

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

4. IN DIRECTING BRAZILIAN DELGATION AT LOS CONFERENCE, BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR LAID DOWN BROAD LINES OF GUIDANCE BUT PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF THOMPSON-FLORES, LEAVING DELEGATES CONSIDERABLE AREA OF MANEUVER. WE UNDERSTAND FROM THOMPSON-FLORES THAT BRAZILIAN DELEGATION AT FORTHCOMING TALKS WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNDER GENERAL DIRECTION OF AMBASSADOR SERGIO CORREA COSTA, WHO WILL CONCURRENTLY HAVE CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY FOR II COMMITTEE NEGOTIATIONS. THOMPSON-FLORES HIMSELF WILL CONTINU TO HANDLE I COMMITTEE. III COMMITTEE MATTERS WILL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF JOSE FIGUEIREDO BUSTANI, WHO NOW ASSIGNED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION OF MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

5. WHILE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS DEFINITELY LEAD AGENCY AND POSSESSES MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EXPERTISE, BRAZILIAN NAVY HAS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER GENERAL POLICY AND IS IMPORTANT SOURCE OF DOCTRINE AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOS MATTERS. MINISTRY OF MINES AND ENERGY HAS BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

INCREASINGLY ACTIVE AS SEABED MINING ISSUE HAS GROWN IN IMPORTANCE. ACCORDING TO THOMPSON-FLORES, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, WHICH HAS INTEREST IN MINERALS PRODUCTION AND SALE, WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN LOS WORKING GROUP.

6. PRIVATE ENTERPRISE AND ACADEMIA SO FAR HAVE HAD NO SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN FORMULATION OF LOS POLICY, THOUGH REPRESENTATIVES OF CNPQ ON WORKING GROUP HAVE USUALLY BEEN SCIENTISTS WITH SOME LINKS TO UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FACILITIES.

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7. IN GAINING OR RETAINING SUPPORT OF BRAZIL FOR OUR LOS OBJECTIVES, WE CONSIDER THAT CAREFULLY TIMED PERSONAL LETTERS FROM SENIOR USG OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT. WE WOULD FAVOR LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE AT CRITICAL MOMENTS OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND EVEN FROM PRESIDENT HIMSELF IN A CLEARLY MAKE-OR-BREAK SITUATION. FOR EXAMPLE, WE RECOMMEND LETTER FROM NEW SECRETARY OF STATE TO BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT SOME POINT WHEN US INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONSULTATIONS FOR MAY SESSION GET UNDERWAY IN WHICH SECRETARY WOULD EXPRESS HOPE FOR CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS BRAZILIAN COUNTERPART ON ALL MATTERS, WOULD UNDERSCORE US VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE PROGRESS IN UPCOMING LOS NEGOTIATIONS, AND REVIEW BRIEFLY US POSITION ON MOST CRITICAL ISSUES PENDING.

8. WE BELIEVE THAT SPECIAL LOS BRIEFINGS OR REPRESENTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY KEY UPPER WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS OF US GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE HERE. VISITS BY SENIOR SPECIALISTS SUCH AS RIDGEWAY AND OXMAN WOULD BE EXCELLENT. BOTH, WE BELIEVE, HAVE SOME PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH BRAZILIAN COUNTERPARTS AND THEIR EXCHANGES HERE SHOULD BE OPEN AND HEURISTIC.

9. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE DEPARTMENT AGAIN DISTRIBUTE POSITION PAPERS ON CRITICAL ISSUES IN HOST COUNTRY LANGUAGE, CONFIDENTIAL

IN THIS CASE PORTUGUESE. THIS WOULD GIVE US OPPORTUNITY TO EDUCATE IMPORTANT SOURCES IN LOS DECISION-MAKING PROCESS OUT-SIDE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, PARTICULARLY BRAZILIAN NAVY.

10. IN THIS RESPECT, WE NOW HAVE BETTER THAN AVERAGE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION TO UPPER LEVELS OF BRAZILIAN NAVY HERE BECAUSE OF PRESENCE OF NAVAL ATTACHE, NAVAL MISSION AND USN ADMIRAL AS CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE OF US DELEGATION TO JOINT BRAZIL-US MILITARY COMMISSION. THESE ARE CHANNELS WHICH WE WOULD PROPOSE TO USE, UNDER CLOSE EMBASSY GUIDANCE, TO TRY TO INFLUENCE BRZAILIAN NAVY.

11. WE HAVE MAJOR BILATERAL ISSUES WITH THE BRAZILIANS WHICH, THOUGH UNRELATED TO MARITIME MATTERS, AFFECT THE CLIMATE IN WHICH WE SEEK TO PROMOTE OUR INTERESTS ON SPECIFIC LOS CONCERNS. PRINCIPAL AMONG THOSE CURRENT ISSUES ARE US VIEW OF THE FRG-BRAZIL NUCLEAR ACCORD AS A THREAT TO NON-PROLIFERATION INTERESTS, AND THE CONTINUED PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN BRAZIL. REGARDLESS OF THE ABSENCE OF IMMEDIATELY APPARENT LINKAGES, WE CANNOT REASONABLY EXPECT THE BRAZILIANS WHO ARE WONT TO SEEK TRADE-OFFS, TO DEAL WITH LOS MATTERS IN COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM THE OVERALL RANGE OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH US. WE MUST ASSUME THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THE PRIORITY LOS INTERESTS HAVE WITHIN USG AND THUS

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RECOGNIZE THEIR UTILITY AS POSSIBLE PRESSURE POINTS ON BROADER ISSUES . THE MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT BILATERAL ISSUE DIRECTLY RELATED TO LOS CONCERNS IS THE PENDING DECISION AS TO RENEWAL OF THE US-BRAZILIAN SHRIMP AGREEMENT AND, IF SO, UNDER WHAT TERMS.
CRIMMINS

CONFIDENTIAL

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